

## Memorandum

Date: August 4, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow

Executive Director



Subject: Recommendations for Additional Watershed Management Investments

### Summary

In considering the FY 1999 ecosystem restoration funding package the Policy Group expressed concern over the relatively few watershed projects which were recommended for funding. Due to the importance of watershed management investment to the long-term health of the Bay-Delta system and the start-up times necessary for effective watershed management, the Policy Group requested staff to review the 1999 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) submittals and develop an interim watershed strategy. Approximately \$2 million is being recommended for watershed projects out of the 1999 proposals. Additionally, watershed management has been identified as a priority for the FY 2000 process now underway.

### Detailed Discussion

The Restoration Coordination Program solicited for ecosystem restoration projects in 1999. 226 proposals were received at an estimated value of \$264 million. \$18.7 million in Federal and State funding was available for projects for this solicitation. The CALFED Integration Panel considered all 226 proposals and prepared a package of 34 projects recommended for funding. Of the projects recommended, 3 were watershed projects, and none of these were upper watershed.

While the Integration Panel had developed adequate and reasonable rationale for the funding package, the Policy Group expressed a desire that an additional watershed management package be developed due to the necessary lead time and ultimate importance of watershed management to the Program. CALFED staff reviewed the 1999 watershed

#### CALFED Agencies

##### California

The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Department of Food and Agriculture

##### Federal

Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Forest Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Western Area Power Administration

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proposals not only from the standpoint of the ecosystem needs but also from the context of the Watershed Management Program. Staff used four criteria to review high scoring projects and determined the \$1.8-2.0 million would enable funding a diverse and beneficial group of watershed projects. The criteria are:

- Improved coordination and assistance - project includes a broad array of collaborators, including landowners, local groups, and all levels of government.
  - Development of monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management processes - project includes a comprehensive monitoring element that, to the extent possible, will be compatible with the IEP monitoring effort in the Delta.
  - Improved and expanded watershed education and public outreach - project would provide training to stewardship groups regarding watershed evaluation and monitoring, and implementation techniques.
  - Improved watershed stewardship - project will establish demonstration sites for floodplain wetland restoration, and riparian corridor redevelopment (including exotic species removal).

The projects and rationale will be reviewed by the Roundtable and brought back to the Policy Group for final recommendation. Additionally, watershed management has been included on the draft FY 2000 priority list. These draft FY 2000 priorities will be discussed at the next two Ecosystem Roundtable meetings and are a major topic of a public workshop on August 31, 1999.

### Action

Policy Group is being asked to commit \$2 million to fund watershed management projects from the 1999 PSP. The proposed projects will be discussed at the September Ecosystem Roundtable meeting and recommended for approval at the September Policy Group meeting. Policy Group is also being asked to establish watershed management as one of the ecosystem restoration priorities for FY 2000.